

Appl. No. 09/617,232  
Amdt. dated March 9, 2004  
Reply to Office action of December 23, 2003

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for changing a reserved capacity for a given tunnel, comprising:

receiving an indication of traffic demand for a tunnel, said tunnel associated with a current path through a network, where along said current path are nodes;

based on said received indication, determining an estimated total capacity requirement;

comparing said estimated total capacity requirement to said reserved capacity; and  
responsive to determining, through said comparing, that where said estimated total capacity requirement exceeds said reserved capacity, transmitting a capacity increase request to said nodes along said current path, said capacity increase request indicating a requested increase of said reserved capacity.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising, responsive to determining, through said comparing, that where said reserved capacity exceeds said estimated total capacity requirement, transmitting a capacity decrease request to said nodes along said current path, said capacity decrease request indicating a requested decrease to said reserved capacity.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~where said requesting~~ further comprises comprising:

receiving replies to said capacity increase request from said nodes;

based on said replies, determining whether [[a]] said current path of said tunnel has sufficient available capacity to accommodate said estimated total capacity requirement, said current path having a source node and a destination node; and

responsive to determining that where said current path of said tunnel has sufficient available capacity to accommodate said estimated total capacity requirement increase, locally reserving said estimated total capacity requirement for said tunnel transmitting

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~~signaling to nodes along said current path to request said increase of said reserved capacity.~~

4. (currently amended) The A method of claim 3 further for changing a reserved capacity for a given tunnel, comprising:

receiving an indication of traffic demand for a tunnel through a network;

based on said received indication, determining an estimated total capacity requirement;

comparing said estimated total capacity requirement to said reserved capacity;

where said estimated total capacity requirement exceeds said reserved capacity,  
requesting an increase of said reserved capacity;

determining whether a current path of said tunnel has sufficient available capacity to  
accommodate said estimated total capacity requirement, said current path having a  
source node and a destination node;

where said current path of said tunnel has sufficient available capacity to  
accommodate said increase, transmitting signaling to nodes along said current path to  
request said increase of said reserved capacity;

where said current path of said tunnel has insufficient available capacity to  
accommodate said increase, determining a plurality of paths through said network  
from said source node to said destination node, where each path of said plurality of  
paths has an associated available capacity; and

selecting one path of said plurality of paths having sufficient associated available  
capacity to accommodate said estimated total capacity requirement.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

transmitting signaling to nodes along said selected one path of said plurality of paths  
to request said estimated total capacity requirement; and

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moving said tunnel to said selected one of said plurality of paths.

6. (currently amended) The A method of ~~claim 3 further~~ for changing a reserved capacity for a given tunnel, comprising,

receiving an indication of traffic demand for a tunnel through a network;

based on said received indication, determining an estimated total capacity requirement;

comparing said estimated total capacity requirement to said reserved capacity;

where said estimated total capacity requirement exceeds said reserved capacity,  
requesting an increase of said reserved capacity;

determining whether a current path of said tunnel has sufficient available capacity to accommodate said estimated total capacity requirement, said current path having a source node and a destination node;

where said current path of said tunnel has sufficient available capacity to accommodate said increase, transmitting signaling to nodes along said current path to request said increase of said reserved capacity;

where said current path of said tunnel has insufficient available capacity to accommodate said increase, determining a plurality of paths through said network from said source node to said destination node, where each path of said plurality of paths has an associated available capacity;

where said estimated total capacity requirement exceeds said associated available capacity of each of said plurality of paths, determining a limiting link in said current path, where said limiting link has a minimum available capacity among links in said current path; and

communicating with a lower level network to request an increase of available capacity on said limiting link.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 further comprising,

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where said request to said lower level network is accepted:

transmitting signaling to nodes along said current path to request said increase of said reserved capacity to said estimated total capacity requirement.

8. (original) The method of claim 6 further comprising,

where said lower level network returns an available capacity of said limiting link and where said estimated total capacity requirement exceeds said available capacity of said limiting link,

selecting one path of said plurality of paths having a maximum associated available capacity among said plurality of paths;

where said available capacity of said limiting link exceeds said associated available capacity of said selected one path of said plurality of paths:

transmitting signaling to nodes along said current path to request that said reserved capacity be increased to said available capacity of said limiting link.

9. (original) The method of claim 6 further comprising,

where said lower level network returns an available capacity of said limiting link and where said estimated total capacity requirement exceeds said available capacity of said limiting link,

selecting one path of said plurality of paths having a maximum associated available capacity among said plurality of paths;

where said available capacity associated with said selected one path of said plurality of paths exceeds said available capacity of said limiting link:

transmitting signaling to nodes along said selected one of said plurality of paths to request said estimated total capacity requirement; and

moving said tunnel to said selected one of said plurality of paths.

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10. (original) The method of claim 6 further comprising,

where said request to said lower level network is rejected:

selecting one path of said plurality of paths having a maximum associated available capacity among said plurality of paths;

transmitting signaling to nodes along said selected one of said plurality of paths to request said associated available capacity; and

moving said tunnel to said selected one of said plurality of paths.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said receiving said indication of traffic demand comprises:

receiving an indication of tunnel capacity in use by serviced requests; and

receiving an indication of tunnel capacity refused admission to the tunnel.

12. (~~currently~~ amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said requested increase of said reserved capacity comprises a difference between said reserved capacity and said estimated total capacity requirement.

13. (~~currently~~ amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said requested increase of said reserved capacity comprises a difference between said reserved capacity and a sum of said estimated total capacity requirement and a buffer value.

14. (~~withdrawn~~) A method of selecting a path from a source node to a destination node comprising:

labeling said source node;

assigning a value to a reported bandwidth associated with each of a plurality of unlabeled nodes where:

if an unlabeled node has a link from said source node, said reported bandwidth is assigned a value based on a bandwidth of said link from said source node, otherwise

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said reported bandwidth is assigned a value of zero;

until said destination node is labeled,

selecting a next node, among said plurality of unlabeled nodes, having a maximum reported bandwidth value;

labeling said next node;

processing nodes connected to said next node to reassign corresponding reported bandwidth values; and

where said next node is said destination node, selecting a path from said source node to said destination node corresponding to said maximum reported bandwidth value associated with said next node.

15. (currently amended) An apparatus for changing a reserved capacity for a given tunnel, comprising:

means for receiving an indication of traffic demand for a tunnel, said tunnel associated with a current path through a network, where along said current path are nodes;

means for determining an estimated total capacity requirement based on said indication;

means for comparing said estimated total capacity requirement to said reserved capacity; and

means for transmitting a capacity increase request to said nodes along said current path, said capacity increase request indicating a requested increase of said reserved capacity.

16. (currently amended) A computer readable medium for providing program control for a node in a network, said computer readable medium adapting said node to be operable to:

receive an indication of traffic demand for a tunnel, said tunnel associated with a current path through said network, where along said current path are nodes;

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determine an estimated total capacity requirement based on said received indication;

compare said estimated total capacity requirement to a reserved capacity for said tunnel; and

~~where said estimated total capacity requirement exceeds said reserved capacity,~~  
transmit a capacity increase request to said nodes along said current path, said capacity increase request indicating a requested request an increase of said reserved capacity.

17. (currently amended) A processor, in a node in a network, operable to:

receive an indication of traffic demand for a tunnel, said tunnel associated with a current path through said network, where along said current path are nodes;

determine an estimated total capacity requirement based on said received indication;

compare said estimated total capacity requirement to a reserved capacity for said tunnel; and

~~where said estimated total capacity requirement exceeds said reserved capacity,~~  
transmit a capacity increase request to said nodes along said current path, said capacity increase request indicating a requested request an increase of said reserved capacity.

18. (currently amended) A system for automated adjustment of a reserved capacity for a tunnel, said tunnel associated with a current path through a network, where along said current path are nodes, comprising:

a tunnel signaller operable to transmit a capacity increase request to said nodes along said current path, said capacity increase request indicating a requested increase of said reserved capacity;

an admission controller; and

a path-selector;

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a capacity manager operable to:

receive, from said admission controller, an indication of traffic demand for said tunnel;

determine an estimated total capacity requirement based on said received indication;

compare said estimated total capacity requirement to said reserved capacity; and

~~responsive to determining, through said comparing, that where said estimated total capacity requirement exceeds said reserved capacity, communicate with~~  
~~instruct said tunnel signaler to transmit said capacity increase request an~~  
~~increase of said reserved capacity.~~

19. (withdrawn) A data structure for use in communicating information regarding traffic demand for a tunnel, comprising:

an indication of tunnel capacity in use; and

an indication of total capacity refused admission to said tunnel.

20. (new) The system of claim 18 wherein said current path has a source node and a destination node, said system further comprising a path selector operable to:

determine a plurality of paths through said network from said source node to said destination node, where each path of said plurality of paths has an associated available capacity; and

select one path of said plurality of paths having sufficient associated available capacity to accommodate said estimated total capacity requirement.